

the drupe, subglobose, 4-grooved, slightly compressed, is 1 line in diameter, with a polished submembranaceous lax pericarp, apparently filled with mucilaginous juice which disappears in drying, enclosing four nucules, as before explained, attached to a membranaceous ventricose central column.*

3. *Rhabdia viminea*, Dalz. in Hook. Icon. tab. 823;—*Ehretia* (*Xerodema*) *viminea*, Wall. Cat. 906; *DC. Prodr.* ix. 569;—*Ehretia cuneata*, Wight, Icon. iv. tab. 1385;—*ramosa*, ramis teretibus, vimineis, adpresse setosis; foliis alternis, copiosis, cuneato-oblongis, apice rotundatis et brevissime mucronatis, supra glabris, subtus adpresse setosis; petiolo limbo 10-plo brevior: racemis in ramulis novellis terminalibus, brevissimis, 2-3-floris; pedicellis brevibus, imo bracteatis; sepalis lanceolatis, pilosis; corolla breviter tubulosa, limbi lobis oblongis, apice rotundatis, campanulatum expansis; antheris lineari-oblongis, exsertis; drupa parva, pallida.—In India orientali, provv. Martaban, Madras, et Malabar.

This, according to Dr. Wight, is a small, very branching shrub, growing on the sandy banks of rivers, like the two preceding species. The drawings of Wight and Hooker quite agree in all points of structure with the figures given by Martius of the typical species. The axils are 2-3 lines apart; the leaves are 8-10 lines long, 3-3½ lines broad, on a petiole ½ line long; the flowering branchlets are ½-¾ inch long; the sepals are lanceolate, canaliculate at the apex, 3 lines long; there is no disk; the form and structure of the ovary, style, fruit, and albuminous seeds as in the typical species.

LVI.—Notes on the Bats of the Seychelle Group of Islands.

By ED. PERCEVAL WRIGHT, M.D., F.L.S., Professor of Zoology, Trinity College, Dublin.

THE Seychelle Islands would appear to be destitute of Mammalia, if we except two species belonging to the order Chiroptera. One of these is the well-known *Pteropus Edwardsii*, which is very common on all the islands of the group. The Flying Fox is a favourite food of the creole inhabitants: I never shot a specimen that the body was not eagerly demanded by my cook. When skinned within a few minutes after death, and roasted the same day, the flesh, though dark, is very good. I have often seen and several times shot these bats flying in strong sunlight between 8 and 10 in the morning; but though

* A representation of this species, with ample structural details, will be given in Plate 84 of the 'Contributions to Botany.'

this is often the case, yet, as a rule, they are nocturnal in their habits. About an hour before sunset they may be seen flying at great heights from their resting-place in the woods, towards the groves of the tree producing the "fruit de Cythère" (*Spondias cytherea*) or the mango-trees (*Mangifera indica*), which are generally found growing not far from the dwellings of the planters; but almost any fruit is equally welcome to them, and they are anything but welcome visitors to the neighbourhood of a fruit-garden. I recollect once taking up my position in a secluded spot near some fruit-trees that I knew were each evening visited by the bats: they began to arrive about 5 o'clock; at first only one or two made their appearance, and they took up good places, with plenty of fruit near them, and alighted without noise; they, like all the others, flew very high, and made as if they were going to cross the island, and then, when just over the group of trees, they fell down as it were among them. By-and-by the arrivals were more numerous, and then the noise began; for a late comer would try to dislodge an earlier comer, and this not without much growling and grumbling and chattering. A little after sunset the noise was at its highest, and there were no more arrivals. At this time I calculated that there were about a hundred and twenty bats in the group of trees. Coming from my place of concealment, I disturbed the multitude, and they fell off the branches at once, and commenced flying in circles round the trees, gradually returning to their meal as I vanished in the distance. I was told that a Flying Fox with a perfectly black face was to be found on Isle Félicité; but though I spent several days on this island, and shot specimens on it of the ordinary *P. Edwardsii*, I never saw a specimen with a dark face.

The second bat belonged to the insectivorous suborder, and was very common in the neighbourhood of the town of Port Victoria, though very difficult to procure. It had a habit of flying round the clumps of bamboo towards twilight, just as the little pipistrelle or the long-eared bat of this country around trees. But in the daytime it was to be found resting in the clefts of the mountain-side facing the sea and with a more or less northern aspect; and these hiding-places were generally covered over with the large fronds of *Stevensonia grandifolia* and *Verschaffeltia splendida*. I sent a specimen of this species to my friend Professor Peters, of Berlin, who informed me that he was writing a monograph of the Cheiroptera; and he describes it as a new species as follows*:

* Monatsbericht der Königl. Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin, June 22, 1868, p. 367.

Coleüra sechellensis, n. sp., Peters.

This species is not only considerably larger than *Coleüra afra*, but it also differs in the spurs being proportionally much shorter—not so long as the tibiæ, but about one-third shorter. The colour is a sooty brown. The following are the measurements:—

| | metre. |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Total length | 0·080 |
| Head | 0·021 |
| Height of ear | 0·011 |
| Breadth of ear | 0·005 |
| Tragus | 0·019 |
| Tail | 0·028 |
| Upperarm | 0·0565 |
| Forearm | 0·011 |
| Thigh | 0·020 |
| Leg | 0·023 |
| Foot | 0·0105 |
| Spur | 0·0165 |
| Leg-membrane across the middle | 0·033 |

I found this bat on Mahé, Praslin, Silhouette; and I believe it to be the only insectivorous bat to be met with in the islands.

LVII.—*Notes on the Transportation of Living Fish from South of the Equator to Europe.* By ED. PERCEVAL WRIGHT, M.D., F.L.S., Professor of Zoology, Trinity College, Dublin.

MY very good friend Dr. J. E. Gray records, in the 'Annals' for October last (*anteà*, p. 319), the fact that Mr. Moore had succeeded, in September, in importing into Liverpool from the River Plate the first living fish that had been received from the south of the equator. This note brought to my mind the fact that I had succeeded in bringing as far north as Paris, in the month of December last (1867), specimens of the only freshwater Cyprinoid of the Seychelles Islands, i. e. *Haplochilus Playfairii*, Gthr.; and as it is a matter of some interest that the results of all such experiments should be recorded, and the means adopted for carrying them out known, I venture to give here the following extracts from my notebook:—

“This little fish is rather common in the mountain-streams on the eastern side of Mahé. These streams are perennial; but